

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10250 101457Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 ACDA-12 OES-07  
NRC-07 /108 W  
-----060495 102052Z /61

R 101445Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1502  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS MOSCOW 10250

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MNUC, UR, SF, WA

SUBJECT: TASS ARTICLE ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

1. MAY 5 RED STAR CARRIES BRIEF MAY 4 TASS ITEM DATED LINED LONDON WHICH CLAIMS THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA IS STEPPING UP PREPARATIONS FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS. ARTICLE GOES ON TO CITE SOUTH AFRICAN RAND DAILY MAIL AS REPORTING THAT THE EXPLOSION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST ATOMIC BOMB WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE KALAHARI DESERT. ARTICLE THEN ALLEGES THAT U.S., BRITISH, FRENCH AND WEST GERMAN MONOPOLIES PLAYED "A DECISIVE ROLE" IN CREATING A MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX CAPABLE OF PRODUCING THE ATOMIC WEAPON IN SOUTH AFRICA.

2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE TASS TICKER CARRIED THE SAME ARTICLE LATE MAY 4 WITH ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS THAT:

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 10250 101457Z

-- THE WESTERN "MONOPOLIES" SUPPLIED "WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS, NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND REQUIRED EQUIPMENT TO THE PRETORIA REGIME FOR A LONG TIME."

-- DIRECTOR OF SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD ROUX DECLARED THAT SOUTH AFRICA OWES ITS PROGRESS IN THE CREATION OF A NUCLEAR INDUSTRY "TO THE TECHNOLOGICAL AND

TECHNICAL AID OF THE USA", AND THAT THE "ASSISTANCE OF OTHER NATO NUCLEAR POWERS" PERMITTED SOUTH AFRICA TO TRAIN ITS NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERING TECHNICAL PERSONNEL.

-- ISRAEL DESERVES "A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE BUILDUP" OF SOUTH AFRICAN WAR POTENTIAL AND PRODUCTION OF MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS.

ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT "THE CLOSE COOPERATION OF NATO MEMBER STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES WITH THE APARTHEID REGIME IN THE CREATION OF A NUCLEAR POTENTIAL IS A SOURCE OF GREAT CONCERN FOR THE AFRICAN PUBLIC." TOON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, ALLEGATIONS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 may 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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